

REMARKS

Claims 14-16, 27-29 and 35 were previously pending in the application. By the Amendment, Claims 14, 15, 27, 28 and 35 are currently amended, and Claims 16 and 29 remain unchanged.

By the aforesaid Official Action, the drawings are under objection. The Official Action notes that the slot defined in the pickup element of claim 28 must be shown or the feature canceled from the claims. By the present amendment, the feature has been canceled from the claims and it is respectfully requested that the objection to the drawing be withdrawn.

The specification is also under objection due to the use of legal phraseology in the Abstract including term "said" in lines 5 and 7. A revised Abstract is presented in the present amendment for entry in the present application and it is therefore respectfully requested that the objection to the specification be withdrawn.

Claim 35 is under objection due to an informality identified in the Official Action. More specifically, the term "coupling means" is assertedly unclear. The term "coupling means" has been amended in a manner suggested by the Official Action. Further, the term "the mobile handle", assertedly without antecedent basis, has been amended to delete the term "mobile" in a manner suggested by the Official Action. It is therefore respectfully requested that the objection to Claim 35 be withdrawn.

The claims stand rejected under the cited prior art of record. Specifically, Claims 14-16, 27, and 35 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 3,999,640 to Persson (Persson '640). Claims 28

and 29 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Persson '640 in view of US Patent No. 4,106,165 to Clowers et al. (Clowers '165).

Independent Claim 14 recites a vacuum cleaner including a body and a handle movable between a generally horizontal position for storage and a generally vertical position for supporting the vacuum cleaner during carrying by a user. A cable winding device is disposed within the body and used for winding and unwinding a power cable which is provided with an electric plug for connection to an electric power network. An auxiliary device is operatively associated with the handle for moving the electric plug from a first position, where the power cable is wound to the shortest length thereof, into a second position wherein at least one of the power supply cable and the electric plug can be taken by hand for unwinding the power supply cable. The auxiliary device is activated when the handle is moved from the generally horizontal position.

Independent Claim 27 recites the vacuum cleaner in somewhat different terms. There, a vacuum cleaner is recited to include a vacuum cleaner body and a power supply cable connected to the body and having an electric plug disposed at an end of the power supply cable. A handle is connected to the body for movement with respect to the body between an inoperative position wherein the handle is disposed in a generally horizontal manner and a carrying position wherein the handle is disposed in a generally vertical manner. An auxiliary device engages the electric plug and is movable with respect to the body between a first position, in which the electric plug is retracted adjacent the body, and a second position, in which the auxiliary device extends the electric plug outwardly away from the body. The auxiliary device is coupled to the handle and is movable between the first and second positions in response to movement of the handle between the inoperative and carrying positions.

Independent Claim 35 provides a variation on the language of Claim 27. There, a vacuum cleaner includes a vacuum cleaner body and a power supply cable connected to the body and having an electric plug disposed at an end of the power supply cable opposite the body. A cable winding device is disposed within the body for winding and unwinding the power supply cable. A handle is connected to the body for movement with respect to the body between an inoperative position wherein the handle is disposed in a generally horizontal manner and a carrying position wherein the handle is disposed in a generally vertical manner. Extension means is provided for engaging the electric plug and being movable with respect to the body between a first position, in which the electric plug is retracted adjacent the body, and a second position, in which the An extension assembly extends the electric plug outwardly away from the body. Also provided is an arrangement for coupling the handle to the extension assembly configured for moving the extension assembly in response to movement of the handle.

The present invention provides a handle mounted to a vacuum cleaner body that is movable between a generally horizontal position for storage and a generally vertical position for carrying by a user. The handle is operatively associated with an auxiliary device or an extension assembly to move the power cable from a stored disposition into a presentation disposition for engagement by a user when plugging the vacuum cleaner into a wall outlet in preparation for use. The enhanced manner with which the user may grasp the power cord makes the present vacuum cleaner easier to use than prior vacuum cleaners.

Persson '640 discloses a cord winding structure for a vacuum cleaner. The vacuum cleaner includes, with reference to Figures 1 and 2, a body 10 including a cable winding device 11 arranged therein and used for winding and unwinding a power cable 13 having an electric plug 14 for connection to an

electric power supply. An auxiliary device 21 is attached to the plug so that when the auxiliary device is activated, the plug is presented outside the body for engagement by user to plug in the vacuum cleaner to an electric wall outlet prior to use.

With continued reference to Figures 1 and 2, when the cord is wound on the reel, the connection plug 14 is maintained in an internal space 15 of the housing having an opening covered by a lid or door 16. The lid 16 is pivotally supported on a shaft 17 and is operated by a push button 12, which in turn is pivotally supported on a shaft 18, the latter being influenced by a spring 19. (Col. 2, ll. 3-9). The lid 16 further supports a follower plate 21 having a hole 22 through which the cord passes. (Col. 2, ll. 16-17). When the push button 12 is depressed, the arm 20 acts on the lid 16, causing it to turn clockwise about the shaft 17. In addition, the follower plate 21 turns and moves the connection plug 14 out of the housing as seen in figure 1 of the position shown in figure 2, so that it becomes accessible for pulling out the cord to the extent desired. (Col. 2, ll. 24-30). It is asserted in the Official Action that the lid 16 is inherently capable of being used as a handle to pick up or move the vacuum cleaner when it is in the extended position shown in Figure 2, and therefore, Persson '640 assertedly anticipates the present invention as claimed.

As seen in Figure 5 of Persson '640, the lid 16 is barely wider than the electrical plug and is not intended in any way to function as a handle. Following the Official Action logic, a wheel could be inherently used as a handle or the vacuum cleaner hose could be used as a handle or the cord itself could be used as a handle to carry the vacuum cleaner. The weight of the vacuum cleaner in comparison to the size of the handle would likely damage the operational structure of the plug handling apparatus. Further, there is no hint or suggestion in the Persson '640 reference regarding to use of the lid as a handle. Even if it

were explicitly spelled out in Person '640, the present claims, as amended, recite that the handle is moveable between a generally horizontal position for storage and a generally vertically oriented position for carrying use by user. Accordingly, since the lid 16 includes no such structure, the lid 16 fails to anticipate, or even suggest the structure of the present invention as recited in the amended claims.

Therefore, Persson '640 cannot be used to anticipate the present invention. Further, the Clowers '165 retractable cord guiding and locking device fails to cure any deficiencies in the Persson '640 reference and a combination of Clowers '165 and Person '640 does not result in the present invention as recited in claims 27 and 28.

For these and other reasons, Persson '640 does not disclose the subject matter defined by independent Claims 14, 27 and 35. Therefore, Claims 14, 27 and 35 are allowable. Claims 15-16 depend from Claim 14 and Claims 28 and 29 depend from Claim 27 and, therefore Claims 15-16 and 28-29 are allowable for the same reasons and also because they recite additional patentable subject matter.

For these and other reasons, Persson '640 and Clowers '165, either alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the subject matter defined by Claims 28 and 29. Therefore, Claims 28 and 29 are allowable. In addition, Claims 28 and 29 depend from Claim 27 and are allowable for the same reason as Claim 27.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, entry of the present Amendment and allowance of Claims 14-16, 27-29 and 35 are respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned. If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

Respectfully submitted,



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